

EGREMONT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

March 4th, 2020 – 4:00 pm

Attending: Rebecca Turner, Bill Wood, Abigail Rogers-McKee, Barbara Kalish, Stephen Piersanti

Missing: Elliott Snyder, Ellen Maggio

Visiting: James Parish, Eileen Vining

- **Meeting Minutes:** February Meeting minutes were approved
- **James Parish – Law Book History:** The Law books in the archive collection as a whole were donated by the Town of Egremont to the Archive. These books were used by the town government through the early 1900s and had been housed in the Academy building since 1882 when it was sold and became the town hall. Many of the shelves and benches around the room used to house them were built in 1955. The oldest books in the collection however (1816-1836) were originally owned by Major Karner during his time as a representative in the General Court of Massachusetts.
 - The commission will review the collection of over 1000 books and separate out those donated by Major Karner from the rest of the collection. From here we will determine what to do with the remaining books.
 - The commission will ask James Parish to provide a written history of the Karner books to frame the history of them with the town.
- **Historical commission Statement & Collection Policy:** The Egremont Historical Commission was established by town vote on May 14th, 1974. It was formed as an extension of the Egremont Bicentennial Committee which was formed in 1973 who were instrumental in creating archives room and initial collections. Rebecca located separate documents in our computer files with past mission statements and regulations for the commission and will email copies to members.
 - James Parish recommend reaching out the Brona Simon, the executive director of the Massachusetts Historical Commission or Christopher Skelly, the MHC Western Mass Contact for possible training sessions.
- **Demolition Delay By-law:** Commission members to review and comment on the proposed by-law as edited by Bill Wood.
- **Route 23 / Complete Streets:** There is a public hearing for April 15th for the updated 25% set by the DOT (Note: as of the writing of these minutes, this meeting has been canceled). The commission would like to reach out to MHC about the 23 projects to make sure that it is on their radar for review. In past letters to the DOT the commission as noted that the south village is a National Register Historic District and as such should be presented to MCH for review.
- **Town Birthday Party:** Barbara met with Lucinda Vermeulen and Mary McGurn about the party. August 16th was tentatively selected as the celebration day to work around other events happening that month.

Next Proposed Meeting: TBD

Submitted by Rebecca Turner, Chair & Secretary